



This week the sanctuary lamp burns for:
 St Basil:- Peter Golson Snr Birthday Remembrance
 St Bede:- Mary Gylmn Anniversary



Sunday 28 th November	1st Sunday of Advent	9.00 am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am 4.00 pm	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Michael's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>)	Anthony (Tony) Karalius (2 nd Ann) Holy Souls Parishioners Mary Hammond (6 th Ann) James Greenwood (LD)
Monday 29 th November	<i>St Andrew the Apostle</i>	9.00am 9.10am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Morning Prayer Holy Mass (<i>St Basil's</i>)	Lou Connaughton (LD)
Tuesday 30 th November	<i>Advent Feria</i>	11.30am 11.40am 12 Noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Rosary Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>)	Frank Richard Hurst (Ann)
Wednesday 1 st December	<i>Advent Feria</i>	10.00am 6.30pm 6.40pm 7.00pm	Funeral (<i>St Basil's</i>) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Evening Prayer Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>)	Eileen Brandreth Margaret Jessica Duffy (B'day Rem)
Thursday 2 nd December	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	10.30am 1.00pm 12 10pm	Funeral (St John Fisher) Funeral (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Holy Mass (<i>Michael's</i>)	Honora Lowe Terence Mellor Carolyn Smith (B'day rem)
Friday 3 rd December	<i>Advent Feria</i>	9.00am 9.10am 9.30am 12.Noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Prayer During the Day Holy Mass (<i>St John Fisher</i>) Funeral (<i>St Bede's</i>)	Paul Leckie (LD) Irene Fraser
Saturday 4 th December	<i>Advent Feria</i>	10.00am 10.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>) Confessions (<i>St Bede's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Bede's</i>) Holy Mass (<i>St Basil's</i>)	Tom Welding (DL) James Bebbington (1 st Ann) Parishioners

St Bede's is open for private prayer Monday to Friday - 10.00am to 13.30pm

Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

C

**"Listen!
I am standing
at the door
knocking."
Rev 3:20**



Parish Clergy	
Fr Mark Moran (PP)	0151 513 0024
Bishop John Rawsthorne	0151 424 4021
Fr Bill Murphy	0151 495 1854
Fr Thomas Skeats O.P.	0151 424 2738
Fr Thomas Clarke	0151 424 6641

PARISH WEBSITE: stwilfridswidnes.uk

Facebook: Parish of St Wilfrid Widnes
<https://www.facebook.com/stwilfridswidnes>

St Wilfrid's Parish Office
 St Bede's Presbytery
 Appleton Village
 Widnes, WA8 6EL
 0151 422 1772
Please email:
stwilfridswidnes@rcaolp.co.uk

Office Manager
 Sylvia Cawley
Administrator
 Deb Kenna

Wednesday Word - <http://wednesdayword.org/parish/index.htm>
Catholic Pictorial - <http://www.catholicpic.co.uk/>

Reflection

As we enter the season of Advent, the Church proclaims: *Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.* There was a moment in the evolution of humanity when our ancestors stopped scurrying around on all fours and stood up on two feet. Standing upright is what makes us human. It differentiates us from many of the other animals.

When life is hard, then we may let ourselves be bent down again, weighed down by the worries of life, unable to flourish as human beings. Whenever tyrants have wished to extinguish human dignity, they try to bring people down to the ground again. When the priest St Edmund Campion, for instance, was arrested in the reign of Elizabeth I, he was put in a cell in the Tower of London in which he was unable to stand upright.

When life seems to lose its meaning and we are feeling dejected and downcast, Jesus invites us to stand upright, to rediscover our dignity: our natural dignity as human beings and our supernatural dignity as children of God.

We can do this because, as the Gospel says, we await in hope the return of the Son of Man as King in glory at the end of time. Then we shall see God's final triumph over chaos and all that destroys human life and weighs us down.

Fr Thomas Skeats OP



Dear Friends

The pastoral plan will be launched across the Archdiocese of Liverpool on the 1st Sunday of Advent. The plan is the fruit of our archdiocesan Synod.

There will be 3 open meetings for anyone to attend who wishes to hear about the plan. These will be on:

- ◆ Saturday 4th December at 11.00am—12.30pm in St Mary's Church, Leyland, L25 1PD
- ◆ Tuesday 7th December at 7.00pm –8.30pm in Holy Rosary Church, Aintree, L10 2LG
- ◆ Thursday 9th December at 7.00pm—8.30pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?pwd=SVd5cFhtQ0dwUFJzQjhLSlQ5VjJJQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 2151 2557 / Passcode: 132667

The pastoral plan can be accessed online from 27th November on Liverpoolpastoralplan.org.uk/ or can be purchased from Pauline Books and Media, 84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY at £2 per copy.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the launch of the pastoral plan.

Fr Philip Inch and Fr Matthew Nunes



Please note change to Mass times on Thursday 2nd December.

Mass will be at 12.10pm at St Michael's



The **Advent wreath** is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent

It is usually a horizontal evergreen wreath with four candles, sometimes with a fifth, white candle in the center, sometimes known as the 'Christ candle' which symbolises the arrival of Christmastide. This is usually lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The most popular colours for the four surrounding Advent candles are violet (purple) and rose, corresponding with the colors of the liturgical vestments for the Sundays of Advent.

Violet (purple) is the historic liturgical colour for three of the four Sundays of Advent: Violet (purple) is the traditional color of penitential seasons.

Rose is the liturgical color for the Third Sunday of Advent, known as *Gaudete Sunday* from the Latin word meaning "to rejoice". As such, the third candle, representing joy, is often a different color from the other three.

Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, an additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit.

Advent wreaths are circular, representing God's infinite love, and are usually made of evergreen leaves, which represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ.

Within the Advent wreath are candles that generally represent the four weeks of the Advent season as well as the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ. Each of the candles has its own significance:

The first week of Advent: hope
The second week of Advent: peace
The third week of Advent: joy
The fourth week of Advent: love

Advent 2021 – Parish of St. Wilfrid

Advent is a time of preparation and reconciliation, preparing for CHRIST to come once more into our world and the call to be reconciled to GOD and to one another. May our parish community be strengthened in HOPE, LOVE and CHARITY during this holy season.

Dates for diary...

Tuesday 7th December, 7pm at St. Marie' Church – Carol Concert

Thursday 16th December, 7pm at St. Michael's Church – Reconciliation Service.

Sunday 19th December, 4pm at St. Michael's – Parish Advent Service.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

6pm – St. Bede

6pm – St. John Fisher

6pm – St. Basil

8pm – St. Michael

Midnight – St. Bede

Boxing Day (Sunday)

9am – St. Basil

10am – St. Bede

10am – St. John Fisher

10am – St. Michael, (Mass for Altar Servers)

Christmas Day

9am – St. Bede

10am – St. Michael

10am – St. John Fisher

11am – St. Bede



St. Wilfrid's Advent Appeal – 2021

So often we buy gifts for people who don't really need them! Socks and scarves that are very nice but not really needed! As Christians we are called to see Advent as a real time of waiting in hope, a time of reflection and prayer and a time of showing our faith in caring for those in need. This year we are going to help asylum seekers, refugees, and vulnerable migrants by giving them a gift that IS desperately needed.

All items must be NEW as they are a Christmas gift. If you would like to buy a gift, you simply take a 'Christmas Label' from the back of Church, with an item that is needed and return it with the label attached. This stops us all buying the same things!

Gifts can be left (please do not wrap them) at the back of all the churches during Advent.

(Last date for donations is Sunday 19th December)

Men's underwear – sizes small and medium, Socks – sizes 6 – 12, Warm hats, gloves, and scarves (male and female)

Training shoes – male sizes 6 – 10, Women's underwear – sizes 10 – 16

Small electrical items – toaster, kettles, blender, juicer *(if the receipt could be attached to these items it would be a great help)*, Small and medium pans, Pillows, and pillowcases.

"Joseph got up, took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt where he stayed until the death of Herod. In this way, what the Lord had said through the prophet was fulfilled: I called my son out of Egypt"

Matthew Ch 2 vs. 14 - 15

Walsingham Pilgrimage

4th to 6th December 2021

For all those joining us on the Pilgrimage please note that the coach will leave St Bede's at 9.30 am on Saturday 4th December. The coach usually picks up opposite the Village club.

We look forward to seeing you all on 4th.

We have had a cancellation of 1 single room, if anyone would like to join us please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

Susan

An Appeal for used postage stamps

Fr Bill is collecting used postage stamps and would appreciate if you would bring any stamps, you have and leave in boxes provided in church porch.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our churches always look beautiful, thanks to the hard work of so many people, yet like our homes we want our church to look extra special around the Feast of Christmas!

If you would like to donate some money towards the cost of Christmas flowers then please pop them through the door at any of the presbyteries marked, **Christmas Flowers**.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



MASSES FOR THE DEAD IN NOVEMBER

During the Month of the Holy Souls, we are inviting every family who has lost a loved one in the past 20 months to remember and pray for them at Mass. The Masses will take place every Sunday afternoon at 4pm at St. Michael's Church during November. Every family will receive a letter inviting them to one of the Masses and they will hear the name of their loved one read aloud in church and each family will be given a candle to take home to light in remembrance.

Parish Choir of St. Wilfrid

The next gathering of our Parish Choir is on **Tuesday 30th November** at 7.00pm in St. Bede's church (please note the change of day). Everyone is always very welcome, even if you have not sung before, or been part of this group previously, or are only able to come along occasionally.

Bags of clothes and food

Please **do not** leave bags of clothes or food at the back of any of the churches as we do not have the facility to move them to the areas of need in our community.



Please take them directly to a charity shop or food bank.



St Wilfrid's UCM invite you to join them on Monday 29th November 2021 at St John Fisher Hall.
Admission is 50p which includes Tea/Coffee & mince pie
Eyes down 1.30 pm. Raffle & Tombola.
Proceeds to UCM charities
Please come and join in the fun.

First week of Advent - Give Hope

Our prayers this week will focus on restoring hope in the world. There are many who are feeling hopeless and are in need of our prayers. During this week of Advent, pray for the Hope of Christ to penetrate our hearts. Amen

Our Parish Our History Our Future

The Heritage event at the end of October was a huge success both in terms of the number of parishioners who supported the event but also the impact the event had on so many parishioners. It was an incredibly emotional experience for so many people. Maybe it was the ability for us to celebrate as a community again, or memories brought back by the excellent speakers or the photographs or maybe just the chance to catch up with old and new friends over a cup of tea at the end.

As previously mentioned, the event was not an attempt to cling onto the past. It was a weekend to celebrate the rich Catholic heritage of Widnes and to take strength from the Faith that was passed down to us today by our parents and grandparents. It was also to take strength from this Faith to help us move forward as one Catholic family in facing the challenges and the many opportunities that lie ahead as we move forward together.

There were over 500 photographs on display in St Bede's Church. As was said on the day, there will be an opportunity after Christmas for anyone in Widnes to have one of their family photographs recorded in the parish archives that will be set up in the New Year. This will be a unique opportunity for you to ensure that your family is included in the history of the Catholic community in Widnes. There will also be an opportunity for any artefacts, memorabilia etc. to be lodged in the archives.

Further information will be in the newsletter in January, but feel free to email peterhistory@aol.com if you have any queries in the meantime.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Last Monday, we gathered to look at how we can reintroduce Children's Liturgy at Mass. Though, very few people turned up for the meeting, only four, we forged ahead and thought about what we can offer rather than worrying about what we cannot!

Moving forward...

Children's Liturgy will be offered once a month at **St. Basil's** at the 6pm Mass (starting Saturday 8th January) and at **St. Michael's** at the 10am (starting Sunday 12th December).

Thank you to the catechists who have committed to this.

Letters will be sent out to the local RC Schools encouraging children and their families to attend, so please, if they come, ensure we welcome them to church with a big **SMILE** and a cheery **HELLO!**

Fr. Mark

Sacristans/Flower Arrangers/Church Cleaners

We are in the business of keeping everyone safe, especially people who come into our churches. So that we can do this better we are asking people who come into church to carry out tasks such as the above to do certain things...

- * Ensure the parish office has a 'person to contact' name and telephone number, so that we can contact them if we need to.
- * On entering the church sign in and on leaving sign out, so that we can see when you were in the church building.
- * Inform someone, a friend or relative if you are going to church at a time when you wouldn't usually go and let them know when you have returned.
- * Try and keep to the same time and day that you come into church to fulfil your role and duties, so that we have an idea of when you are coming and going.
- * If you ever feel unsafe carrying out your role, let Fr. Bill or Fr. Mark know, this does not mean that your role will cease, it may just mean that your role will be adapted, or assistance given.
- * Try not to be in church alone.
- * Let us know if we can do anything to make you feel safer in the role that you carry out for the good of us all, speak up!

We have a duty of care to each other

Fr. Bill and Fr. Mark